

## JEAN ELIOT'S LETTER

(Continued from Tenth Page.)  
also on duty at the navy yard now; but I suppose they will live up-town. Mrs. Merriam is still away, but she spent last winter, while Paymaster Merriam was at sea, with her mother, Mrs. Wallach, in her 1 street home.

Gen. and Mrs. John A. Johnston will not open their house in Washington this winter, if they stick to their present plan, but will have an apartment in the Vanderbilt Hotel in New York. While their daughter, Mrs. Sumner, will take a house in one of the Philadelphia suburbs for the season. They expected to leave their Thousand Islands place on Friday for New York. So I suppose they have already arrived. General and Mrs. Johnston have their own particular life in the St. Lawrence, after the most approved fashion among the wealthy people who frequent that region. Five acres in extent it is and its very name, Wintergreen Island, breathes coolness and fragrance. The house is picturesque and handsome and not far from it is a comfortable bungalow, where the men are housed when the Johnstons entertain house parties. There they may do as they please, and it is whispered that much loafing in negligee before the great fire-place in the living room is in order, and that a quiet game of cards is not infrequent.

The place has a veritable fleet of boats—a yacht and eleven power boats, besides launches with glass cabins, mahogany-lined fishing skiffs, with engines in them, and minor craft galore. The fleet is enormous, so large that the boats may be safely put away inside for the winter, and overhead there are twenty sleeping rooms for the servants. They also have their fleet of boats. There are more than a score of domestics, so that the guests almost stumble over them on the island.

The Johnstons and their guests take frequent long trips through the neighboring waters in the yacht, tying up for the nights, when the ladies sleep aboard and the men ashore in shelter tents.

General Johnston resigned from the regular army in 1903. I am told that he sent in his resignation some years before, after he had reached the rank of colonel, but before it was accepted he was appointed assistant adjutant general.

**PLANT'S FLAG FLIES ON BILLINGS' YACHT**  
It is Believed Commodore Traded His Kanawha For the Newer Vanadis.

NEW YORK, Sept. 18.—Have C.K. G. Billings and Morton F. Plant exchanged their big steam yachts? Circumstances make it appear that Mr. Billings had given up his English-built Vanadis for Commodore Plant's flyer Kanawha, formerly owned by the late H. H. Rogers. Commodore Plant and his wife left their summer home at Orono, on the New York coast, on the Kanawha several days ago, and she steamed to Glen Cove, near which Mr. Billings lives and where he had the Vanadis. The plants arrived back in New London last night on the Vanadis, and the plant private agent, who was flying from her mainmast—a mark of possession. Mr. Billings could not be reached on the telephone, but the deal was consummated. It is supposed that Commodore Plant paid a substantial bonus, as in the Vanadis he obtained a newer and much larger vessel than the Kanawha. The Vanadis, of 1,002 tons, is 27 feet long. She was built at Glasgow from designs by Tams, Lemoine & Crane, of this city, and is most luxuriously fitted out for cruising. She rammed the steamer Bunker Hill, of the Metropolitan line, in a fog in the sound, June 13, killing two passengers on the steamer and injuring three others. Mr. and Mrs. Billings were aboard the yacht. The Kanawha is a sixteen year old, her tonnage is 475, and she is 22 feet long.



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eral, and, therefore, reconsidered. Later he was made brigadier general, and then he did resign, to be appointed District Commissioner some years later. He filled that office with considerable distinction, but refused to serve for more than one term.

Mrs. Johnston is a very wealthy woman in her own right. She was formerly Miss Vandergrift—Alice Vandergrift Garrett is her niece—and comes of an influential Pittsburgh family. Indeed, I am told that her father was once president of the Standard Oil Company. Virginia Sumner is their only daughter—their only child, I believe—and both General and Mrs. Johnston are wrapped up in her and her two fine boys. And truly she is a captivating person—pretty, petite, graceful, and notably well groomed. The whole family will be greatly missed this winter, and New Year Day will, indeed, be a "frustration" without their annual reception—unless the official celebration of the day be resumed.

When I see so many splendid Washington homes, large roomed, high windowed and surrounded by lovely gardens and bits of green lawn, lying idle for six months or more of the year, I am a socialist. I'm ready to believe that all property should be public property. But when I find the owners of such fine properties allowing their gardens to run riot and the grass to grow waist high—then am I an anarchist. I want to blow up the whole bunch. Right around Sheridan Circle and in Massachusetts avenue there are a round dozen houses, the handsomest houses in town, whose front lawns would do scant credit to the meanest alley, where the grass has not been cut this season. It does seem a crying shame that such neglect should be allowed to continue, for the lack of expenditure of a few pennies and a little labor and trouble. There should certainly be some law compelling the householder to care for his front lawn, just as there is a statute compelling him to clear off the snow in front of his property.

The church bells are ringing, I think I shall heed their call for once, and, therefore, must bring my letter to a hasty close. My love to you, dear. Yours fondly, JEAN ELIOT.  
Sunday.

## NEW OFFICERS RULE IN EPWORTH LEAGUE

Installation Services Held At Mt. Vernon Place M. E. Church.

New officers of the Epworth League of Mt. Vernon Place Methodist Episcopal Church South for 1915-16 were installed in office after the 11 o'clock service today. The Rev. Edward K. Hardin preached on "The Power of a Dedicated Life." The new officers are: A. E. Martin, president; W. S. Warren, vice president; Eula M. Dawkins, secretary; Edith Hoff, corresponding secretary; John W. Wood, treasurer; W. A. Lasley, superintendent of the department of spiritual work; Ella Whitacre, superintendent of the department of social service; Leta Bolin, superintendent of the department of recreation and culture; Ardelle Humphrey, superintendent of the department of missions, and Julia Erby, Epworth E. A. agent.

Mr. Wood will be in charge of the evening service, the topic being "The Spiritual Opportunities and Perils of School Life."

## Thrashing Stirs Pastor.

DANVILLE, Ill., Sept. 18.—"Would Jesus, were He living today, thrash on Sunday?" That was the subject of a sermon by the Rev. J. M. Judy, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Sidney, near here. But he talked to empty pews. Most of his congregation were thrashing.



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